"No Tobacco Week"

476. DR. KARAN SINGH:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an international "No Tobacco Week" was observed in May this year;

(b) if so, the schemes and programmes launched thereunder;

(c) the percentage and number of tobacco-related dealths in India during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002; and

(d) the steps taken by way of research and otherwise to find alternative uses of tobacco without causing loss to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) "World No Tobacco Day" was observed on 31sth May, 2002.

(b) A number of workshops/seminars and cultural/sports activities were organized by the Government and non-governmental agencies all over the country to publicise the ill-effects of tobacco and discourage its use.

(c) Year-wise data is not centrally maintained. However, it is estimated that about 8 lakh persons in India die every year due to tobacco use.

(d) There is very limited use of tobacco other than for chewing or smoking purposes.

Health centres in border regions of Rajasthan

477. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of health centres operating in the border regions of Rajasthan;